

Series I
Correspondence,
1932-1973

Box 4, Folder 10

January 16, 1953 -
March 11, 1953

Outgoing, 1953

Dear Red (Captain Yeager), 20 January 1953
Organization of National Security Council

Dear Jimmy, 3 March 1953
Admiral Mountbatten and polo!!

Dear Admiral Spruance, 31 March 1953
Interesting comment on Philippine affairs. Check with
Tom Buell's biography of Spruance!!

Dear Swede (Hazlett), 11 August 1953
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Telling off the priest at a wedding!

16 January 1953

Dear Kendall:

I was down in Washington a few days ago and had planned to see you, but unfortunately I got all fouled up with this Davis Amendment which may affect me, and therefore couldn't get over to see you. What I wanted to speak to you about was this:

I was retired in 1949 for physical disability, with a "bundle branch block" of my heart. I was given a 60% disability rating in 1950, and I have until 1 October 1954 to make a choice as to what retirement plan I desire. I can choose the 60% direct disability, or seventy-five per cent (75%) retirement for thirty years' service. Naturally, I will choose the latter, since the 60% disability is subtracted anyway and becomes un-taxable. Some time after I received this 60% disability rating, Vice Admiral Griffin, who was head of the Board at that time, told me that I should have received 70%, and not 60%. He therefore suggested that I appear before the Board again in the sense of an appeal, so that the Board might correct this error. I did not do this, for reasons entirely unknown to me at the present moment, but I think that I was very busy on something here, and Admiral Griffin retired before I had decided whether or not to do so. Dr. Howard Sprague, world famous cardiologist, says I am 85% disabled.

I am not anxious to obtain anything that I do not deserve, but if I am entitled to more I should appreciate it if you would tell me what you think of it, and advise me as to whether I should appeal.

When I was in Washington the other day, I visited quite accidentally one of the offices which pass on physical disability. The officer-in-charge brought out the Veterans red rating book and I could readily see that 70% was possible if I were given 10% for arterial sclerosis. Perhaps I was. However, I am no doctor and am quite unqualified to comment.

I want you to know that I am at a loss, and always have been at a loss, to understand how Admiral Griffin, who was head of the Retirement Board, came into this thing, but possibly you know the answer to this.

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I hope that in writing to you I am not indiscreet or placing you in a disadvantageous position. I am just writing to you because I don't know anyone else to write to except, perhaps, my old friend Captain Bell. I don't know whether he is still there or not, but I am quite fond of him.

With best regards to you, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Rear Admiral Henry S. Kendall
President, Naval Examining Board and
Physical Appeal Board
Executive Office of the Secretary
Room 2B53, Bureau of Yards and Docks
Navy Department
Washington, D. C.

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January 20, 1953

Dear Red:

It was a great pleasure to see you at my niece's the other night in Falls Church. You are the same wonderful fellow, and I was glad to see that your wife remains an equally wonderful woman. Evidently you make quite a team. The only thing I have against you both is that you should have come to the Naval War College!

With reference to the matters you wished me to discuss, I have to say as follows:

(a) Toynbee, Arnold.

I am sure that it was the historian Toynbee who a very short time ago--that is, several years ago--made the statement that the normal condition for human life on this planet was to be under the heel, and that today's world was in exactly this same condition with the exception of very limited groups, i.e., those which practiced Western civilization. He further stated that some 2,000 years from now, when the historians of the future gaze back upon the world of today, the world will look normal, historically speaking, except for those areas controlled by the United States and Great Britain and some of their close allies. These areas will be considered as revolutionary. In his opinion--whether we believe it or not--our type of life, our democratic way of life, is not normal to our time and is distinctly revolutionary!

(I tried to find the source of this thought for you, but could not.)

(b) As regards the matter of solving the problem of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, I have the following thoughts which I expressed to you Tuesday night last:

It seems to me that it might be well if an organization were developed along lines somewhat similar to this:

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(a) National policy to be established by the President, with the advice and consent of the Senate. This would normally follow the recommendations of the National Security Council.

(b) National strategy to be formulated by the National Security Council.

(c) The Council, which would have a civilian and a military staff--the latter to be rotative and to be members of the Regular Military Establishment--would develop the tasks; in other words, make a staff study. That is, the Council would determine what operations were necessary to support the formulated strategy.

(d) The Council would determine, roughly, what forces were necessary to make the operations determined in (c), above, effective.

(e) (1) The military members of the Council (see below) would then determine, in the case of military operations, which forces were to be ground troops, which would be air forces, and which were to be naval forces. They would then determine which ground forces were to be composed of normal ground troops, and which were to be composed of unusual ground troops such as Marines. They would also determine what portion of air was to be carrier-based and what portion land-based; and finally, the naval forces would probably take care of themselves. This would determine the size and composition of the Military Establishment and, in particular, of the Army, Navy and Air Force.

(2) Then a directive would be given to the Joint Chiefs of Staff to execute whatever tasks are assigned the military command. The Joint Chiefs of Staff would determine somewhat more meticulously the feasibility of the operation and would determine who would execute it, and so forth.

(3) In this way, the Joint Chiefs of Staff would be acting primarily as an executive agency, not as a top planning agency, and their departments would be executive agencies and thereby not be mixed up with the high-level planning of global strategy.

Since most of the planning would be done by the staff of the Security Council, it would be necessary to have within the Council one officer of each of the services to maintain before the Council the viewpoints of their respective services without at the same time

being forced to follow a definite course of action. My thought is that the Navy might be represented by an officer with the qualifications of Admiral Conolly or Admiral Forrest Sherman, the Army by one with the qualifications of General Eisenhower or General Gruenther, the Air Force by one with the qualifications of General Twining or General Norstad. The great discussions which apparently ensue in the Joint Chiefs of Staff would ensue, to a degree, in the Security Council, but here the Chairman, who is the President, and the other competent civilians on the Council would act as a brake and would maintain, very probably, a logical thought process throughout the discussions.

I presented this idea to the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Air, Mr. John Nicholas Brown, at his request some years ago. He was interested, but said it wouldn't work because we were human beings. Recently, Dr. Vannevar Bush and the Secretary of Defense have both run into this problem, and their solution is somewhat similar to mine. However, I think mine is much better. Perhaps you can give me an opinion concerning my ideas in this matter. Very frankly, it has not been fully thought out as yet. It is not a War College concept, but is purely my own.

Best regards to you and yours, as ever,

Your old skipper,

R. W. BATES

Captain Howard A. Yeager, USN
National War College
Washington, D. C.

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February 2, 1953

Dear Jack:

I should feel very ungrateful if I didn't write you a letter immediately to thank you for your kindnesses to me during my recent stay in New York. I should include Admiral Conolly in this letter, but I feel he will write to you himself.

The luncheon for Admiral DeLany, which developed into a luncheon for Admiral Halsey, was delightful, and I enjoyed meeting all of your guests, notably the newcomers Judge Thomas Murphy and Father Maguire of Villanova. Both of them are extremely personable and I thought contributed much to your luncheon. Needless to say, I also enjoyed the "Second Panel of the Sheriff's Jury" dinner. The whole affair was well done, the food excellent, and the wines enough in abundance to maintain a proper viewpoint at the table. I also appreciated the quality of the gifts given to everybody by the Sheriff's Panel. I thought the choice of steak knives was particularly appropriate for the members of the Sheriff's Panel, but I thought that for hard-working fellows like myself the chance of using such a knife on steak is more rare than usual.

I have a complaint to make, though, in connection with this dinner. I hear that the members who had guests had to fork up a pretty fair price for them, and therefore I assume that you did this for me. I am not sure of this, but I heard a rumor that you had done so. So, if you don't mind, one day when we meet again, I will endeavor to repay you for my cover charge!

The few minutes at Club "21" were interesting, and I thought your friend Mr. Manny Seamon quite humorous.

The dinner at the Metropolitan Club was nice--I thought the roast beef tip-top--and the play "Above and Beyond", which I went to with your son and daughter-in-law, was very well done and I enjoyed it. In fact, I think Admiral Conolly also enjoyed it, although, believe it or not, he thought it a little unfair to women! Johnny and Patty were very nice hosts, and it was obvious that Johnny knew his way around very well indeed. I think I hurt his feelings when I didn't go to the Club "21" with him, but, as I told him, I had work to do in the morning.

I am going to write Mr. Feldman today to thank him for the loan of his apartment, and I am expressing to you now my appreciation of your help in arranging it.

My last sight of you was on the corner of Sixtieth and Fifth Avenue, and you looked so lonely standing there that I felt like getting out of the car and taking you with us. However, I knew that you needed a night's sleep, and I sincerely hope you got it.

Admiral Conolly came to Film Graphics with me on Friday morning and, with his great knowledge of the sea, was quite helpful in straightening out some of my problems. He was surprised, though, at the great amount of detail. He told me that he might have to keep out of it in the future because he wasn't familiar with the details to the extent necessary to argue sensibly. He seemed satisfied that it was going to be a tip-top picture, and I am sure it will be.

I certainly hope that your trip to New Orleans was thoroughly successful and that you returned to New York happy and relaxed.

I have had occasion in this letter to begin a number of paragraphs with "I". I don't like to do that, but since everything in the letter is an expression of appreciation to you, I couldn't avoid it.

Please give my best regards to your family. And as for yourself, God bless you! As ever,

Your old friend

R. W. BATES

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February 3, 1953

Dear Mr. Feldman:

I am writing to you to tell you how thoroughly both Admiral Conolly and I enjoyed the privilege of being your guests in your charming apartment in the Hotel Pierre. It was all a surprise to me, as I had made arrangements to stay at the New York Yacht Club.

When I met you up here for the Global Strategy discussions, I realized that you were not only extremely capable but extremely kindly as well. Your courtesy of the past few days has strongly reinforced that kindly concept. I have no doubt that a lot of your success can be attributed to this very wonderful trait.

I hope that you have recovered from your illness and that everything is bright again. You shouldn't be concerned about your illness however, it is the social thing to have these days.

With warmest regards and many thanks, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

R.W. BATES.

Mr. Russell Feldman,
Hotel Pierre,
Apartment 1802,
61st Street and 50th Avenue,
New York City, N.Y.

1171

February 5, 1953

Dear Sandy:

It was very nice to see you the other day, and I certainly appreciated the help which you gave me concerning the signing of a contract with the Bureau of Naval Personnel relative to supplying consultative services to the Naval War College. The Bureau of Naval Personnel, at the request of the War College, desires to engage me under a consultative contract at so much per diem. The War College staff, such as the Chief of Staff, Rear Admiral W. Beakley, and the Secretary, Captain E. Olsen, have a little difficulty in understanding the law. I haven't spoken to the President of the College, Vice Admiral Conolly, as yet.

I told them that you had told me that a consultative contract was perfectly correct and proper, and would in no way affect my retirement. This view is supported by BuPers and by BuShips (Rear Admiral Leggett).

I notice in the little pamphlet which you have put out, a copy of which I received during my visit to your office, that, in discussing retired personnel, it says that the employment of retired officers under a consultative contract is O.K. The Chief of Staff has accepted the opinion; that Federal employment as above mentioned is satisfactory, but he began wondering how it was to be effected. I said that I worked on a consultative basis so many days per month, sometimes more than eighteen, sometimes less, but that I was unable to work over two hundred sixteen (216) days per year. The remainder of the time I was on my retired pay.

I further told the Chief of Staff that the way it goes is this: I get the per diem pay for consultative services from the War College and the retired pay portion per month, or whenever it might be, from Cleveland, Ohio. I notify the latter each month of the number of days I have been on retired pay.

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Since the War College is preparing a letter to the Bureau of Naval Personnel concerning this, I should like to discover, as soon as possible, whether or not my statements as above are correct.

What we all want to be sure of is this--that I don't get "stuck" on my retired pay later, one way or another. I suppose you know that I have been retired for physical disability incurred in line of duty. There has been no determination as to whether or not it was combat incurred. Actually, it is a heart ailment which I did not have when I went out to battle in the Pacific in 1943.

For your information, I referred the matter to Captain Bill Mott, Head of the Justice School here and he said that he understood that it was correct in substance, but advised that I obtain from you an official opinion from the Judge Advocate General. How about it?

It was wonderful to see my old Hawaiian friend in such a position of responsibility, but I have no doubt he wouldn't be there if he wasn't that good. Aloha!

Best regards, as ever,

Your old friend,

R.W. BATES

Captain S.B.D. Wood, USN,
Assistant Judge Advocate General,
Room 4E794, Pentagon Building,
Navy Department,
Washington 25, D.C.

February 5, 1953

Dear Mr. Van Atten:

It was very thoughtful indeed of you to include me with Admiral Conolly in your invitation to the Circus Saints and Sinners Club luncheon, wherein Mr. Walter Reuther was the "fall guy." It was very thoughtful of you also to include Mr. Jack Small, who was my classmate at Annapolis but whom I had not seen for a long time, at the table with me.

Very frankly, when you said you had lost your ticket, I was quite concerned, and had thought of giving up my ticket to you. However, it was just a gentle trick by a very friendly host, and I am glad it happened, although I missed having you at the table with me.

The whole affair was extremely interesting and reminded me in many ways of what is done at some of the sessions at the Bohemian Club in San Francisco. They never go to the extent there that you did here in picking on anyone in particular, but what they do--at least so far as I have seen--is funny enough.

I asked Admiral Conolly whether you were coming up here for the Global Strategy discussions this time and he indicated that it was very possible. I certainly hope so!

Best regards,

R. W. BATES

Mr. W. T. Van Atten
Dun & Bradstreet
99 Church Street
New York, N. Y.

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February 6, 1953

Dear Gerald:

Some months ago I received a very nice letter from you in reference to your tour of duty in the Embassy at Ankara. I have no doubt that it was a wonderful assignment, and judging from your letter, you enjoyed it. I should like to see the place.

On the other hand, I hear strong rumors that you have retired from the Foreign Service and gone out to live in California in the vicinity of Monterey. I don't remember who told me this, but I think it was Admiral Taffender, your old landlord.

Things are about the same around the War College. We have had, so far, a very successful year, and since the College is known by its graduates, it has been men like yourself who have assisted us to our position of eminence. Thank you! We now have a State Department (career) member of the War College staff who is a recent graduate, Mr. Donald Edgar. Perhaps you know him. He likes it here very much and we like him, so that is fine. It is too bad we didn't know here that you planned to retire, else we might have asked for your services before you quit.

Please give my best to Helen, and as for yourself my best wishes go with you always. Perhaps I shall give you another pheasant!

Thanks for your letter, and again my best wishes.

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES

Mr. Gerald Keith
The Foreign Service of the
United States of America
State Department
Washington, D. C.

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February 9, 1953

Dear Dick:

You may wonder why it is that you are hearing from me after all these years, but I happen to have a couple of friends--very close friends--who are planning to be in Manila from February 24th until March 5th at the Bay View Hotel. They are connected with the Atlantic Gulf Dredging Company (I think that is the title) and are to be in Manila for a meeting of the Board of Directors.

I wondered who was in command in Manila, and noted with great interest and satisfaction that you were. So, I am writing you to ask if you won't get in touch with these friends of mine and do something for them. I don't know whether you ever met them or not, but if you did you will remember what fine people they are. They are Mrs. and Mrs. Wyman Taylor, of Piedmont, California. Mrs. Taylor is the daughter of Mr. Herman Krusi (deceased) who founded the Atlantic Gulf Dredging Company. She, at one time, was one of the better women golfers of the state of California, but since she is now in her fifties, I imagine her golf is off somewhat from its peak. Mr. Taylor went to military academy in San Rafael with me, and has been my friend, lo! these many years. Taylor is an artist and can paint anything from road signs to portraits.

I hope things are going well with you in Manila. I was there as Chief of Staff late 1945-early 1946 to Vice Admiral Kauffman, and had the unhappy responsibility of liquidating a large command. One of the items I had to liquidate was the PT boat fleet, which, by the way, Senator Kennedy was asking me about the other day. He was an old PT boat man, and his questions were purely personal interest. What finally happened to that fleet?

The Naval War College is going "great guns." You would be delighted to see it functioning today. Admiral Spruance and Admiral Conolly have done much for the College. Today only officers selected on their records can come here, and no second-raters are permitted. The result is that we are

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getting repeated requests from commanders-in-chief for our graduates for their staffs. When you get to be a Vice Admiral please remember this.

The election of Eisenhower was a great thing for our country, but I think we are starting out too drastically in the matter of armed forces personnel cutting. It is a tough situation, of course, but, as has been pointed out already, Mr. Johnson did the same thing and ended up in the dog house. They are having hearings in the House now on the Davis Amendment which, by the way, may affect me.

You would have enjoyed the weather in Newport the last day or so. It would have reminded you of the Antarctic, and you would have found your parka quite useful. However, the weather has been generally excellent, so there is no complaint. I hope your Mrs. is in fine health and is enjoying Manila, as much as I did. I liked it quite well, but my heart went bad and so I retired physically. Here I am working on the four major battles of World War II. I have completed Midway, Coral Sea and Savo Island, and have also finished Volume I of the Battle for Leyte Gulf. Have you read them? Have you seen the films?

Take care of yourself. I hope you will find time to do something for the Taylors. I have already spoken to them about you. Please give my best to the Spruances, for whom I have a deep affection. I plan to write them also about this, although their daughter tells me they will be in the States by March.

Best regards, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Rear Admiral Richard Cruzen, USN,
Commander U.S. Naval Forces Philippines,
c/o Fleet Post Office,
San Francisco, California.

February 10, 1953

Dear Germany:

Thank you very much for your assistance in the case of the World War II Battle Evaluation Group connected with the Naval War College. I think the matter has been straightened out now. In view of BuPers attitude we have all agreed the best thing for me to do is to accept one of those personal consultative contracts wherein I supply strategical and tactical advice to the War College for the World War II Battle Evaluations. The letter has been written and is en route today to Washington.

Meanwhile, I am writing to tell you that Admiral Conolly will be in Washington this afternoon and tomorrow and he plans to see both Admiral Fichteler and Admiral Duncan among others. I have suggested that he see you and I think he wants to if he can. I told him that you are the "angel" of this section, as was Briscoe before you and that a large part of our success is directly traceable to the wonderful support which you and the CNO have always given us.

I am making this letter short since Admiral Conolly's decision to go to Washington today was more or less sudden. If you get a chance to talk to him you can build up a joint support for this section in case it is further required. He is most anxious to continue the section as it has received much praise because of its books and films. Admiral Conolly also considers that this work is of great value in the education of high command.

If you don't know it, at the present time I am making a film in New York, the Battle of Savo Island. This movie is being produced by the Navy, under contract

with Film Graphics, which firm made the film of the Battle of Coral Sea. Admiral Conolly thinks it will be a remarkable film and will show serious errors in command, from which he hopes all will profit.

With best regards to yourself and with hopes that you are 100% back in harness, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R.W. BATES.

Rear Admiral M.E. Curts, USN,
Office of Chief of Naval Operations,
Room 4E552 PENTAGON BUILDING,
Navy Department,
Washington 25, D.C.

February 11, 1953

Dear Admiral Spruance:

I am taking the liberty of writing you today to invite to your attention the fact that a couple of my friends from Piedmont, California, are arriving in Manila to remain from February 24th until March 5th, at the Bay View Hotel. The names of these friends are Mr. and Mrs. Wyman Taylor. Mrs. Taylor has not clearly stated as to whether they were travelling by sea or by air, but I have an idea that she told me they were travelling on the President Cleveland.

Mr. Taylor went to Hitchcock Military Academy in San Rafael with me. He is an artist, a portrait painter, a humorist, and all in all a fine fellow. Mrs. Taylor is the former Maryly Krusi, of Alameda, California. Her late father, Mr. Herman Krusi, was the founder of the Atlantic Gulf Dredging Company, which has considerable interests in Manila. Mrs. Taylor, I think, is a member of the board of directors. They are going to Manila to attend the annual meeting of the board.

The Taylors are good friends of the Underwoods as well as of mine. I have written to Admiral Cruzen about their coming, so I hope that somehow the Taylors will have the good fortune to meet both the Spruances and the Cruzens.

I was in California in November because my mother died, which was a severe shock. Now my father has fallen down and broken his right arm at the shoulder, which has him in the hospital. Since he is in his ninety-third year, I am concerned about him.

I saw the Underwoods on the coast when I went to Mother's funeral. They are swell, as usual. We talked quite a bit about you. Although Frances seemed to have heard from you, I, of course, had not.

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Your son-in-law is doing very well and is quite enthused over the possibility of being the executive officer of a CVE or operations officer of a CV--area Pacific. I see Margaret at intervals, but I won't discuss her much since Jerry says that she gives you all the dope all the time.

You will be distressed to hear that old Mr. Frederick Prince died, followed by Mrs. Ledyard (Harriet) Blair. Prince's death had been expected for some time, but Harriet's was a complete shock. She was a wonderful person!

I certainly hope that the situation out there with you is as you would like. I enjoyed the Philippines quite a lot when I was there. I can imagine that ^{from} the viewpoint of the Embassy they are even more attractive.

You will be glad to know that the War College, which you re-founded after the war, is going "great guns" and has reached a stature above all of the others--at least that is what we hear from the high command!

I have finished three books now and two films, and I am working on the film of the Battle of Savo Island. I have finished the first volume of Leyte Gulf, and am now on the second volume. It is a tremendous assignment because of the vast forces involved.

With best wishes to you and yours, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Ambassador Raymond M. Spruance
American Embassy
APO No. 928
San Francisco, California

February 11, 1953

Dear P's:

I received your letter with a great deal of interest, but have delayed in replying to it because I was very busy on some other matters.

Thank you very much for offering me any information you have which will contribute towards the proper analysis of the Battle for Leyte Gulf.

For your information, I agreed to do four of these battles. I have completed the Coral Sea, Midway and Savo Island battles, as well as the first volume of the Battle for Leyte Gulf, and have made films of the first two battles and am now making a film of the third, the Battle of Savo Island.

These studies, are extremely thorough in that I endeavor to obtain every source and then to weigh the commanders' actions against those sources, based on the information available on any given date. There is as little 'hindsight' as possible, and it is for that reason, I think, that so far I have received nothing but outstanding commendations for both the books and the films.

You need not be concerned about all that went on in the planning of the operations. I don't touch that in any great detail. I discuss the plans and point out the weaknesses, if such weaknesses are there, but I don't discuss who sat down at any given meeting. Perhaps in Sam Morison's books, or books of that type --or even in something you yourself might produce-- the points you wish to bring out might well be included. The analyses here touch top commanders almost exclusively; that is, Halsey, MacArthur, Kenney, Kinkaid, and Nimitz.

For your information, I have only reached Oldendorf's operations in the Gulf and have completed everything up to midnight, October 17th. We will have two more days--the 18th and 19th--of advance force operations, and then Admirals Kinkaid, Wilkinson and Barbey appear in the Leyte area and the advance forces are absorbed.

I do not plan to write up the operations inside Leyte Gulf in any detail except, for example, to discuss minesweeping and underwater team work, because, owing to bad weather, etc., these were not too well done.

What I am really trying to do is to present enough background of orders, operations, etc., to be able to judge adequately the decisions of the commanders which resulted in the three principal battles which comprise the Battle for Leyte Gulf, and a discussion of those battles.

It will be a very long time, if I continue on this job, before I arrive at the 24th of October; I would estimate a year and a half. Since I will see you long before that, perhaps I will be able to see what you have and avail myself of it.

With best regards, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Mr. Paulus P. Powell
Appeal Printing Company
130 Cedar Street
New York 6, New York

February 25, 1953

Gentlemen:

In your issue of Saturday, February 21st, 1953, there was an article on the obituary page concerning the death of my father H.L.A. Bates of Alameda, California.

I should like you to send twenty-four copies of this issue to my father's home in Alameda and to send the bill to me here at the Naval War College.

My late father's address and the place I wish you to mail the newspapers is 727 Paru Street, Alameda, California.

The article was an excellent one!

Very truly yours,

R.W. BATES,
Rear Admiral, U.S.N.

The New York Times Company,
Times Square,
New York 36, N.Y.

1184

27 February 1953

Dear Bill:

I note with interest that the House has voted 370 to 0 in favor of the personnel bill relating to the Davis Amendment.

This shows me that the MASTER has in no way lost his cunning. Congratulations!

As ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Admiral William M. Fechteler, USN
Chief of Naval Operations
Navy Department
The Pentagon
Washington, D. C.

1185

March 3, 1953

Dear Jimmy:

I noted with a great deal of interest that you had been ordered as Deputy to Admiral Mountbatten. I was very interested in these orders because our problems in the Mediterranean have usually stemmed from relations with Britain, and lately have involved Mountbatten. I have no doubt, therefore, that you have been chosen with great care and that your assignment is an unusually important one.

I am sure that you are thoroughly cognizant with the British manner of accomplishing certain of their objectives, but Mountbatten used to go them one better by training at sea for polo ashore. He used to have a wooden polo pony set up on one of the ships and, believe it or not, about twenty years ago wrote an interesting book on it called "Polo by Marco." I still have the book and Mountbatten is still playing polo. Are you familiar with the "near" side and the "off" side?

I want to thank you for the loyalty you have given me in my work here and for the support you have given all of us at the War College in our efforts to improve the professional judgment of our naval officers. You are a man of outstanding accomplishment, and all of us have felt that with you in Operations we were on firm ground.

I wish you your usual success in your new assignment, and should I not see you before you go, I desire to wish you good fortune and God-speed as well.

With warmest personal regards, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES.

Vice Admiral James Fife, USN,
Room 4E788, The Pentagon,
Washington, D. C.

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March 9, 1953

Dear Dick:

Thank you very much for your letter relative to the loss of my father. Your letter was particularly appreciated when I realized that it was only a matter of a month or so since you had lost your mother.

You are quite right that the loss of a father, particularly one who has been very close with his children, is quite a blow. It is a greater blow, believe it or not, when he has been with you for so many years. I hope that you have been able to re-orient yourself to the loss of your mother and that all is well with you and yours.

I note that you have been down to see young Dick, and I am glad that you are satisfied with his performance. There always has been a Breed in the Navy, and Dick had to carry on the old tradition.

I am sorry to hear that you feel that Ted is always writing bad news. You must remember that he is alone and therefore doesn't have the activities you have to keep him fully occupied. Necessarily, therefore, he will for a while be--to you--a bit psychopathic, perhaps. Actually he isn't at all; he is a very solid citizen.

I look forward to seeing you in the future, and, with best regards to you and yours, and thanks again for your letter, I am,

Your old friend,

Mr. Richard Breed
105 South Cambridge
Ventnor, New Jersey

1187

March 9, 1953

Dear Charlie:

Thank you very much for your letter of the twenty-fourth relative to the loss of my father. It was somewhat of a surprise that it should have occurred so soon after my mother's passing, but we knew it was simply a matter of time.

As you perhaps know, what happened to father was this: he fell down and broke his arm. He then walked around with his arm in that shape and complained that it hurt him. So the family called in the doctor, and he discovered father's arm broken. So he was immediately put in the hospital, and his arm, which had suffered a break at the upper shoulder, was put in a cast. The arm then started healing quite satisfactorily and everyone was delighted. Then the family noticed that father was getting a little forgetful and was having difficulty with his legs. The doctors said that if he couldn't walk he might get pneumonia. They then tried to walk him and he tried to walk, but he could not. As a consequence, he got pneumonia, was sick for about one week, and finally died. It was the end of a wonderful career, and all of us viewed his passing with intense regret. However, he is happy now alongside mother, and I hope all is well.

I note that Bud has signed the letter with you. I want to thank her also for her thoughts at this time. She struck me as being a swell person, and I was therefore pleased as punch at your good fortune in catching her --and of course hers as well.

With best regards,

Your affectionate cousin,

Dr. Charles C. Chapple
The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
1740 Bainbridge Street
Philadelphia 46, Pennsylvania

1188

March 10, 1953

Dear Mr. Kanick:

I am in receipt of your letter of March 7th, and wish to advise that I have no knowledge whatsoever as to who passed on the proposed naval tactics and strategy in the Navy Department during the period 1944-1945, World War II. As a matter of fact, I sent in a few thoughts myself and received simply the usual card of acknowledgment.

I would suggest that you communicate with the Navy Department. It is not unlikely that they can advise you as to who headed this section.

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES
Commodore, U.S.N., (Ret.)

Mr. Lewis Kanick
600 Tuckerman, N.W.
Washington
D. C.

1189

March 11, 1953

Dear Alan:

It is very nice of you to write me that letter about my father. It is particularly nice to receive it from you as I probably knew you best of all the Field boys, since you were the youngest. I feel now that I know Russell quite well also. He very kindly served as an honorary pallbearer at both mother's and father's funerals.

With you, I remember well the old days around Paru and Dayton. It was a very wonderful place for young fellows growing up because of the many fields near by where one could play. Those fields were almost too wonderful! Now they have disappeared and in their places are nice residences. But, where do the children play?

I remember your brother Charlie walking up and down Dayton Avenue in a poetical frame of mind and it was probably there that he wrote some of his finest works. Kate, of course, was our pal, and many were the happy days that we had with her. But, most of all I remember you, and my hindside is still sore from the grooves cut in it from the rides on your handlebars!

Father helped you in the envelope business probably because he not only had affection for your family, but because he had an affection for you in particular. He liked the way you were starting from scratch to carve your way anew in the world. Needless to say, you did extremely well which pleased him very much.

I didn't know that your father had died at 59 when you were about 19. I had thought that he was much older than that. I seem to remember the tall kindly gentleman with his sideburns.

We were, as you say, very lucky to have had our parents for so long and we recognize it. They were, as you say,

wonderful people of high character and purpose. I feel that any success that any of us may have had we owe to them and to their fine Christian characters. I am happy to say that I feel the same about your parents.

With very best regards and many thanks for your kind letter, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R.W. BATES

Mr. Alan Field
135 Laurel Street
San Francisco 18, California

Mrs CONALLY -

March 11, 1953

Dear Helen:

I was very delighted to receive your letter and to discover that you are enjoying yourself so much at your daughter's home in California. I read the letter to Dick and he was very pleased to note that you were happy, and he appreciated the good humor which permeated your letter.

I sent those Hooper candies to you by airmail in the hope that you would get them in time for the train. I am glad to note that you did, and that they provided your principal sustenance on the train, as the food was poor.

Dick and I have been sort of "batching it" at dinner time quite frequently during your absence. I have dined at the President's house on a number of occasions, and he in return has dined with me. I have had him at Christy's, at the Tavern, and tonight will take him to the Lobster Pot across the bridge. He seems to enjoy these trips very much, although I am quite sure that he will enjoy your return more than anything else. A married man acting as a bachelor has a lot of fun for a few minutes and then things begin to pall. So I think your return--he said it would be on the 20th--will be a relief to him.

We have had some wonderful weather here during your absence, but it is unusually cold. Today they reported that the temperature was about nine degrees Fahrenheit. This is really cold, but without a wind it is not too troublesome.

I am awfully sorry that I was unable to visit your daughter and son-in-law at Carmel, but my family troubles precluded anything of that nature. Some day, if they stay there long enough, I will get there, since I am fond of both of them and of little Ann as well.

1192

Dick is busying himself very much over the Global Strategy discussions and seemsto be having very good results; in fact, almost too good, since he expects about eighty civilians, whereas last year we had only about thirty. This coming week the NATO naval attaches arrive, and that will keep him busy for some days.

Friday night he is giving a dinner for Forsyth Wickes, and on Saturday for General Donovan. All bachelor dinners. I have tried to bring in a flame once in awhile, but he can't see it. He says no female guests without Helen. I think he's right.

With best regards to you and your whole family, I am,
as ever,